

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02412 121549Z
ACTION SS-25

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O P 121530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6466
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2412

EXDIS

ATHENS FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON

REF: NICOSIA 2218

1. I SAW TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON FOR A PRIVATE CHAT
SEPT 10, A FEW HOURS AFTER HE AND DENKTASH HAD RETURNED
FROM ANKARA. ONHON HAD LEFT AUG 22 FOR TWO WEEKS'
CONSULTATION IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL. ON SEPT 2, HE
RETURNED TO NICOSIA TO PICK UP DENKTASH WENT BACK TO ANKARA
SEPT 6 AND CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT UNTIL SEPT 10.

2. ONHON SAID THAT DURING HIS OWN CONSULTATION HE HAD ARGUED
STRONGLY THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS HAD TO BE RETAINED AND
DENKTASH'S CONTRADICTORY PUBLIC MICHIEF-MAKING CURBED. THIS
VIEW HAD PREVAILED, BUT ONLY JUST. I GATHERED HE WAS
REFERRING TO ERBAKEN'S SUPPORT FOR UDI.
AFTER DENKTASH'S ARRIVAL IN ANKARA, IT TOOK A
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GREAT DEAL OF PATIENT WORK ON THE PART OF
CAGLAYANGIL AND DEMIREL TO TURN HIM AROUND, BUT IN
THE END THESE EFFORTS HAD SUCCEEDED, AS WE COULD
SEE FROM DENKTASH'S MORE RECENT STATEMENTS SUPPORTING
THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ANDDEFERRING UDI AT LEAST
UNTIL FEBRUARY.

3. I ASKED ONHON IF GOT'S INTERNAL CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION WITH DENKTASH HAD PRODUCED FRESH THINKING ABOUT NEXT STEPS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, NOTING ONHON'S STATEMENT TO ME (REFTEL) THAT THIS WAS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS ANKARA CONSULTATION. ONHON LOOKED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY EMBARRASSED AND DIFFIDENT. HE SIAD GOT VIEWS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH NIMETZ, WHOSE FORTHCOMING VISIT WAS BEING VERY TIGHTLY HELD. BASICALLY, GOT FEELS THAT MAKARIOS' DEATH HAS CREATED A VOID INTO WHICH ATHENS WILL HAVE TO MOVE. HOWEVER RELUCTANT GOG MAY BE, IT WILL NOW HAVE TO DO MORE OF THE TALKING FOR GREEK INTERESTS IN CYPRUS. THIS VIEW WOULD BE CONVEYED TO NIMETZ WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT USG CARRY THE MESSAGE TO GOG THAT TURKEY BELIEVES CYPRUS MUST NOW BE PUT INTO A GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE ALONG WITH THE AEGEAN AND OTHER PROBLEMS. I SIAD I DID NOT THINK MY GOVERNMENT WOULD FAVOR THE IMPLIED LINKAGE BETWEEN PROGRESS ON CYPRUS AND THE EVEN MORE COMPLEX, LONGER TERM AEGEAN QUESTION. HAD GOT ARRIVED AT ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT STEPS IT COULD TAKE CONCERNING CYPRUS, RATHER THAN SEEMING TO SAY PROGRESS IS SOMEONE ELSE'S RESPONSIBILITY? ONHON REFUSED TO BE DRAWN. MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS WAS MORE LIKELY DUE TO A PAUCITY OF DECISIONS IN ANKARA THAN TO SECRECY.

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4. REFERRING TO REQUEST OF UNSYG SPECREP DE CUELLAR TO VISIT ANKARA BEFORE UNGA OPENING, ONHON SAID THIS HAD SIMPLY NOT BEEN POSSIBLE GIVEN CAGLAYANGIL'S SCHEDULE. CAGLAYANGIL HAD EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET DE CUELLAR WHEN BOTH ARE IN NEW YORK. CRAWFORD

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